morality. With a view to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of Indian laws including programme codes and standards, Government proposes to enact a comprehensive law for, *interalia,* regulating private broadcasting in the country.

Cancellation of Regional Programmes from Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra

4483. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding cancellation of regional programmes from Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra from 8 P.M. onwards;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRYOF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that in the changed Media scenario, the National Channel of Doordarshan has been restructured recently with a view to enlarge viewership and improve quality of Doordarshan programmes. In the process, the format of Hindi Samachar and English News has also been restructured with the increased durations. With the restructuring of news format and resultant scheduling of English News between 8.00 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., this time slot, earlier utilised by Regional Kendras on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, has been taken for national news. On remaining days, this slot was already with national network. However, keeping inview the regional aspirations, seven Regional Language Satellite Service channels, including Malayalam Channel, have been made round-the-clock and producers, technicians etc. of states would get more opportunities in the Regional Language Satellite Service.

Increase in Commerical Obscene Advertisements on TV Channels

4484. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that on all T.V. channels commercial obscene advertisements violating minimum ethical standards are increasing day-by-day without any check/control;

(b) if so, what stringent action Government propose to take against such commercial advertising companies, who are violating even the minimum code of ethics;

(c) by when suitable legislation to check this rising unethical trend is likely to be brought before Parliament; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) As per existing Doordarshan's Advertisement Code, no advertisement is permitted which interalia, glorifies violence of obscenity or projects a derogatory image of woman. Indian satellite channels, which have been given permission to uplink from India are also required to adhere to the same code. Encrypted foreign satellite channels when transmitted through cable television networks, are required to adhere to the advertisement code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 which also phohibits carriage of advertisements interalia, glorifying violence or obscenity or projecting derogatory image of women. Enforcement of these provisions of the said Act lies with the local authorities of respective State Government.

(c) and (d) The Government proposes to bring before the Parliament comprehensive legislation which will, interalia, provide for regulatory mechanism for various aspects of Broadcasting. However, the exact details are yet to be finalised and no time frame can be indicated for the same yet.

Restructuring of work Force Deployment by Air and Doordarshan

4485. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Radio and Doordarshan authorities are undertaken certain exercises to restructure the work force deployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this exercise is involving a comparison in the number of work force in these Organisations and those in private television channels;

(d) if so, the basis and details thereof;